



## ALEXANDRIA:

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 21, 1860.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

A melancholy occurrence took place on Wednesday, at the residence of Mr. S. Morgan Ramsey, in Philadelphia. It appears that his son, Norton, aged 11 years, having gone to the bureau to look for some tickets, saw a pistol, and innocently taking it out, pointed it at his sister, Kate Ella Ramsey, aged nine years, who was dressing herself. He exclaimed, "take care, I'll shoot you." The domestic, who was present, cried out, "don't do that, I'll call your father." She started to call Mr. Ramsey, when the pistol was discharged, the ball entering the body of Kate, breaking her left collar-bone and traversing her lungs. She died in a few minutes.

The Mobile Advertiser calls attention to the tendency of cotton to take "the back track," instead of coming forward to the Gulf ports, as hitherto, for shipment. Since the States of Alabama and Mississippi, say the Register, constructed their railroads, "the outrageous phenomenon has presented itself" of the cotton bales being spirited away from Mobile and New Orleans, and passing Northward by railroad or steamboat to reach the Factors of Virginia, Maryland or New York. It is stated that a single Memphis trader has just visited Norfolk to negotiate for the transmission of 25,000 bales by way of that port.

The bill amendatory of the Pacific telegraph law, introduced by Mr. Ely in the House, proposes to extend the time for the completion of the line to the 1st of December, 1863. It allows the company to remove or build their line upon any railroad which may be constructed by the U. S. government from any part of the Mississippi valley to the Pacific. Should the company issue bonds and sell the same, the government, if required, is authorized to pay the amount of subsidy to the telegraph company in discharge of the coupons to said bonds.

The Sues of Temperance of South Carolina, it appears, are about to secede from the National Division. Several of the subordinate divisions have demanded a meeting of the Grand Division of the State to adopt the necessary measures, and they call upon the entire Order in the Southern States to follow suit, and to form a "National Division of a Southern Confederacy." The reason assigned for this movement is that the Order in Massachusetts has admitted blacks on a full equality with white members.

On Monday night, in Philadelphia, during the performance at the Walnut Street Theatre, a great excitement was caused by a cry of fire. The audience was terrified, and rose on a mass. A fearful rush was made for the doors. It seems that in the second act there is a representation of a house on fire. This was not generally known, and when the flames burst forth in every direction, they appeared so natural as to occasion the cry of fire.

The Troy Whig says: "It was stated publicly in this city a day or two ago, that our fellow-townsmen, Major-General Wool, had written Secretary Cass a patriotic and able letter, in which he took advantage of his many years of friendship to offer some advice in reference to the present crisis. Gen. Wool is an open, undisguised opponent of secession, and we understand he advised General Cass that the first duty of the government was the arming of Fort Moultrie."

Two white men named Waters, and a mulatto named Wilson, at Mosely Hall, a village in North Carolina, were arrested a few days ago for harrasing for Lincoln and the abolitionists, and severely beating a citizen who remonstrated with them. They were immediately tried by a jury, who ordered them to be whipped and have their heads shaved. The verdict was carried out on the spot.

A few days ago a man named Richard Lissou was tarred and feathered and ridden on a rail in the town of Handsboro', Mississippi, by the vigilance committee there, who have already hung a suspected abolitionist named Macintosh, and have in jail another suspected abolitionist named David Meagher. The committee sent Lissou to New Orleans, to be shipped North.

A few nights since the Rev. Mr. Buchan, residing at Stirling, Canada West, was struck twice over the head while in bed, and jumping up seized his assailant, who proved to be his housekeeper, Mrs. McAvoy, who confessed to intending to murder him and then rob and set fire to the house. She was sent to jail.

The Pittsburg Chronicle is informed by a gentleman direct from the Pennsylvania oil regions, that many of the wells which yielded large quantities of oil have dwindled down to almost nothing, and some have been sold out because the yield would not pay the expense of working them.

The year 1861 will be the first of the 660th Olympiad. There will be an annual eclipse of the sun on the 11th of January, another on the 7th of July, and a total eclipse on the 31st of December. There will also be a partial eclipse of the moon on the 17th of December.

The De Groot claim, which was not allowed by Secretary Cobb, is on the table of his successor, by whom it is likely to be paid. There is much excitement in regard to it, and the lobby, who are interested in the amount of thirty-eight thousand dollars, are ravenous for the spoils.

The report of the Commissioner of the General Land Office shows that the coal fields of the United States cover upwards of two hundred thousand square miles, and are capable of supplying steam power equal to the whole physical force for the present population of the globe.

A large mass meeting "for Italy and Garibaldi" was held at Cooper Institute, N. Y., on Tuesday evening, at which addresses were delivered by Hon. John A. Dix, who presided, Mr. Luther R. Marsh, Rev. Dr. Hittcock, Rev. F. C. Fletcher and others.

The Albany Journal describes an expert swindle, which is to scatter "Counterfeit Detectors" through the West, describing as good, bogus money, and then passing it off for wheat and potatoes. This has been done on a pretty large scale recently.

The ladies of Chicago are so enraged at Mr. Burch, on account of the late divorce case, that the police have been called out on one occasion to prevent a threatened feminine mob from lynching him.

Longevity, Democracy and matrimony are the strong points of Mr. James Douglas, Coventry, Ct. He is 104, has been married over 70 years, and always voted the Democratic ticket.

The new steamer John P. King, which was destroyed by fire at New York on Tuesday, cost \$120,000, and was insured for \$100,000. Her machinery will be saved in a damaged state.

The calamity in the Chesapeake bay, near Swann Point, on Tuesday-morning, by which nine persons lost their lives, has cast a gloom over the eastern part of Baltimore.

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Monterey, Mexico, is in New York. He preached at St. Francis Xavier's church, in Sixteenth street, on Sunday.

In Philadelphia, on Monday evening, a man named Edward D. Brown, proprietor of a liquor store in Front street, below Arch, called upon one Dennis McCarthy Sheehan, who keeps a low grocery in Water street, below Lombard, for the purpose of collecting a bill due from the latter. High words ensued between the two, and Brown was the act of leaving the premises, when Sheehan drew a pistol and sent two slugs crashing into the brain of the former, killing him instantly.

In the case of the Rock Island Railroad Company vs. J. W. Bissell, for conspiracy to burn the railroad bridge across the Mississippi, at Rock Island, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. The jury based its verdict on the ground that the bridge was erroneously described in the indictment. Bissell was re-arrested on a charge of conspiracy to burn that part of the bridge belonging to the Rock Island Railroad Company, and was held to bail, which he refused to give, and went to jail.

Charles Hertz, Sr., an old and respected citizen of Philadelphia, died on Sunday. During the disastrous riots in July, 1844, when an excited mob had planted a loaded cannon in front of the church of St. Philip de Neri, in Queen street, with the avowed determination to batter down that edifice, Mr. Hertz, deliberately marched through the excited multitude with a pitcher of water in his hand, and as coolly poured its contents into the touch-hole of the deadly engine.

We find the following novel announcement in the list of marriages published in the New York papers, of Monday: "At Wareham, Mass., Dec. 10, by Rev. Mr. Clary, Mr. Andrew D. Fuller, of Livermore, Me., and Miss Abby H. Green, of Wareham. This couple never saw each other before, the courtship having been carried on by the brother of the bridegroom. They were introduced after 11 a. m., and before 12 the bridegroom was on his way 'East' again."

It is stated that Gen. Cass will remain in Washington a few weeks, as his son-in-law, Col. Ledyard, will not probably desire to return with his family of young children to Detroit, at this inclement season. It is regretted by the citizens and visitors to Washington that many of the pictures and other works of art which now adorn the General's mansion, could not be retained in the metropolis.

On Friday last three negroes, viz—Levi Jenkins, aged 35, under sentence of death for rape upon a negro girl; John Channon, aged 18, under similar sentence for the murder of a lovely white girl of 14 summers, and a colored woman, of 18 years, for the murder of an innocent babe, of fourteen months, suffered the penalty of the law, at Georgetown, Delaware.

The "Bellard Everett Constitutional Club" of New Orleans, having a surplus of eighty-one dollars after the expenses of the Presidential campaign, decided to send that sum to the "Mount Vernon Ladies' Association," as an additional tribute of their love of the Union, reverence for Washington, and appreciation of a cause to which Mr. Everett has so closely allied himself.

Com. Chas. T. Platt, aged 63 years, died suddenly at Newburg, N. Y., on the 12th inst. The deceased was an officer in the United States Navy, and was wounded at the battle of Lake Champlain. He was also at the battle of Lake Erie. He entered the naval service of his country in the year 1812, and continued in it till the day of his death, a period of nearly 48 years.

On Sunday evening a fire broke out at Marietta, Pa., in a two-story frame house occupied by a colored man named John Walker, and before it was discovered, or before assistance reached the spot, the interior was a sheet of flame, and four children—three of them belonging to Walker, and the other a child of his sister-in-law—perished in the flames.

Gov. Hicks, of Maryland, has issued his proclamation, earnestly inviting the people of that State to comply with the recommendation of the President of the United States, to observe Friday, the 4th of January, as a day of humiliation, fasting and prayer, in view of the perilous condition of the country.

Mr. Cass, in his letter of resignation to the President, which is brief, approves of the annual message, save in one particular, which he plainly states. The President in acknowledging the receipt of the letter, regrets the difference of opinion, and both gentlemen exchange friendly assurances.

In the Common Council of Boston, on Thursday last, an order was introduced for the appointment of a Joint Committee to consider the expediency of the city insuring against losses by fire within its borders, and making the Cookshire water free to all persons living in Boston.

The citizens of Charleston, S. C., are about to present Col. W. Corcoran, of the sixty-ninth New York regiment, a gold-headed Palmato cane, in admiration of his spirit in refusing to participate with his regiment in the reception of the Prince of Wales in New York.

In a small village of Illinois may be seen daily taking his morning walk a jolly old Frenchman, who prides himself on having built the first house on the spot where Chicago, the proud Queen of the West, now spreads herself with her 100,000 inhabitants.

The New York authorities have allowed a Company to lay pipes through all the streets, to convey "hydrogenated fuel," or other heating agents, to every house, just as gas and water are now conveyed. So we move onward.

Mr. J. Waterman, the pilot who guided the first steamboat up the Hudson, is still living, 73 years old, in Wayne county, New York. He states that the boat was two weeks on her voyage to Albany.

The well-known Downing Hotel, at Newport, R. I., a favorite resort in the summer season for sporting men, was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday night. The hotel was quite an extensive building.

Maryland will probably lose one member of Congress under the new apportionment. New York will lose two members, and New England three. Illinois will gain five members. South Carolina will lose one.

Many of the citizens of Texas are putting off everything of wearing apparel that is manufactured at the North, and coming out in full suits of homespun.

Spaulding, the "prepared glue" man, gives a New York paper \$31,000 for a single column of advertisements in all its issues for one year.

The number of slaves in Maryland is found to have diminished more than fifteen thousand since 1850. The whole number now is about seventy-five thousand.

The President on Wednesday, nominated to the Senate, Edward M. Stanton, esq., as Attorney General of the United States.

Chief Justice E. D. and Assistant Surgeon Thos. G. Charlton, U. S. N., have resigned.

The long pending suit of Mrs. General Gaines is to come again before the Supreme Court of the United States in January.

## FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Empress of the French, while at the station on her way to Perth, had her attention drawn to a soldier in extreme ill-health, but bearing upon his person several decorations for actual service. Prompted doubtless by sympathy for his infirmity, she gave him a small donation, when one of the attendants, with more officiousness than good taste, reminded her Majesty that she had befriended a man who had fought at Waterloo. "Then he is more deserving," replied the Empress, "for he contended with a brave enemy."

Capt. M. F. Maury addressed a crowded meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, in London, on the 26th ult., on the physical geography of the Antarctic regions. He was greeted with a very hearty reception, and his address was received with much attention. At the close, Admiral Fitzroy warmly eulogized Captain Maury's exertions in promoting a knowledge of the physical geography of the sea. The meeting was presided over by Lord Ashburton.

Mr. Beverly Tucker, United States consul in Liverpool, has published a letter in the Liverpool Post, defending the State of Virginia, and the city of Richmond in particular, from the imputations which the treatment of the Prince of Wales at Richmond have given rise to. Mr. Tucker addressed his communication in the first instance to the London Times, but that journal refused to insert it.

The London correspondent of the New Orleans Delta says, there has been an attempt, since the return of the Duke of New Castle to England, to reconcile him to his daughter, who did not marry beneath her station, but against his wish, Lord E. Vane, the son of the Marchioness of Londonderry, who makes £100,000 a year out of coals, and therefore can back her boy.

The best of the Neapolitan Bourbons is dead. The last foreign news announces the sudden death, by apoplexy, of the Count of Syracuse. This was an uncle of the young ex-King of Naples, Francis II., and a brother of the late King. His name was Leopold Benjamin Joseph, and he was the third son of King Francis I.

The ex-King of Naples is by no means a pauper, notwithstanding the loss of his dominions. His treasure has been conveyed to Paris. According to the reports it is wholly in silver—nine millions of silver dollars, which have been sleeping in peace, some of them since the days of Masaniello.

George H. Hall, who left last spring to pursue the study of art in Spain, has been crowned, at an exhibition of two small fruit-pieces at Seville. The Duke and Duchess of Montpensier had requested to have them sent to the palace, and desired to purchase them, but they were not for sale.

Out of 60,000 men, women and children engaged in the manufacture of ribbons at Coventry, England, and the neighboring hamlets, 40,000 are at the present moment unemployed, and thousands are positively starving.

The London Times has another editorial on the political split in the United States, and expresses the hope that the quarrel may give way to a calm, in which the real duties of the slavery question may be met and quietly adjusted.

The Dutch government has at last matured the plans which it has been so long forming for effecting the emancipation of the slaves in her colonies. The masters are to be compensated.

The tour of the fascinating and beautiful Empress Eugenie, of France, to England, occupies almost as much space in the English journals as the visit of the Prince of Wales occupied in our own.

The famous Italian beauty, the Countess Castiglione, about whom and the Emperor Napoleon so much was said two years since, has returned to Paris to pass the winter.

Queen Victoria is a good woman—she bought a dozen iron bedsteads and presented them to the poor people of Balmoral.

The latest details of the colliery explosion in Wales prove that not less than 170 lives were lost.

Sir Henry Marsh, the eminent Dublin physician, died suddenly, on the 2d, from apoplexy.

£65,000 sterling of Peter's "pence" had arrived at Rome from America.

## VIRGINIA NEWS.

In spite of the dull times full two thousand bales of cotton have been sold in Norfolk during the past week. This looks like something was doing, and when we take into consideration the fact that about 100,000 bushels of corn have been sold in the past eight days, we may congratulate ourselves on the fact that there is something doing.

ORANGE COURT.—Monday next, the 24th inst., is Orange county Court-day. The following magistrates constitute the Court: Garrett Scott, P. J.; W. W. Tompkins, Thos. R. Towles, Robt. Collins and Thomas Davis, associates.

Slights were out at Richmond, Va., on Saturday and Sunday, while in New York the Central Park afforded fine skating for thousands.

James E. Scholer, postmaster at Stafford, C. H., Stafford county, Va., vice Wm. L. Morgan, resigned.

## Convention of Minute Men.

NORFOLK, Dec. 19.—A convention of the Minute Men of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Princess Anne and Norfolk counties, assembled at Ashland Hall to-day at 12 o'clock. The Convention was largely attended. Col. Herbert, of Princess Anne, was appointed President, and Mr. Charles Harris, of Norfolk, and R. C. McAlpine, of Portsmouth, Vice Presidents. Col. Herbert, on taking the Chair, made a strong secession speech, saying that the day has passed for compromise, and Virginia should unite with the Southern States against the opposition of the North. (Loud applause.)

Strong resolutions favoring the right of secession and seceding were passed; each resolution being loudly applauded. Several strong speeches, favoring secession and urging immediate action, were made. The Speakers referred to Wade's late speech in the Senate, showing that no concessions are to be expected from the North. The Convention adjourned at four o'clock, P. M.

## The Blue Cockade Worn by Negroes.

We learn from the Southerner, a paper published at Bolivar, Tennessee, that the negroes of A. S. Coleman, esq., of that place, created quite a sensation in that town a few days ago, by appearing on the streets with blue cockades on their hats. It learns from Mr. Coleman that they requested the privilege of wearing them, as they said, to show their contempt for the abolitionists, and their love for their native South.

Within the last six weeks, says the Philadelphia Press, not less than 15,000, and perhaps 20,000, persons in that city, have unexpectedly been discharged from situations where they enjoyed the privilege of earning their bread by the sweat of their brows. Directly and indirectly, probably not less than 50,000 persons depended upon these exertions of the operatives for subsistence.

Bayard Taylor was hissed furiously while delivering a lecture in Brooklyn on Tuesday evening. The cause of offence was an attempted apology for Geo. W. Curtis, the abolition lecturer.

At Buenos Ayres the National Convention has dissolved, after adopting the constitutional reforms, and on October 21 the constitution was solemnly sworn to throughout the province. Buenos Ayres thus becomes reunited with the other provinces of the Argentine Confederation.

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## Movements North and South.

Gov. Magoffin, of Kentucky, has issued a circular to all the Governors of States, stating all the amendments which the South now requires to the federal constitution. To none of them could the Northern States make any reasonable objection. The most important of these propositions, in reference to the future security of southern rights, is one that is likely to meet general approval—that is, to give the Senators from States which are slaveholding, for the time being, a vote upon any bill affecting slavery which may exist. Some propose that this provision be extended to all legislative subjects, and to the majority of Senators both of the North and the South. This would effect the same object which Mr. Calhoun had in view when he proposed a dual executive.

We learn from the Georgia journals that the indications of public sentiment in "the Empire State of the South" are daily becoming more and more reassuring of the hopes cherished by patriots and Southernists like Stephens, Hill, Jenkins, and others, who, in the political difficulties of the hour, have never ceased to hope for the preservation of the Union, while contending with deliberate valor for the constitutional rights of their own country.

It appears that sixty-two members of the Georgia Legislature have signed an address to the people of South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and other States in convention assembled previous to January 16th, urging them to defer secession until the meeting of the convention of Georgia, which convenes on the 10th of January. They further ask, on behalf of Georgia, that her sister slaveholding States appoint delegates to a general convention of Southern States, for consultation.

Thirty-five conservatives and leading citizens of Massachusetts, of different political parties, have issued an address to the people of the State on the present crisis. This address, after speaking of the perilous condition of the Union, boldly declares that the State of Massachusetts has violated our great national compact, by laws on her statute book, which are in conflict with the constitution and laws of the United States. And it then proceeds to point out the objectionable features of the "personal liberty" bill.

Governor Moore, of Louisiana, in his recent message to the Legislature of that State, recommends a conference or convention of the slaveholding States, but secession at all hands before Lincoln's inauguration.

We are glad to observe by the proceedings of the North Carolina Legislature that that veteran Democrat, Hon. Bedford Brown, at present a leading member of the State Senate, is battling bravely for the Union in connection with the constitutional rights of the South.

The Fayetteville Observer has information from various counties in the State of North Carolina, all indicating a strong anti-secession feeling, and a desire to preserve the Union as long as it is possible to do so consistently with honor.

It is now the general opinion that nearly all the Southern States will agree to the call of a convention of the Southern States, for the purpose of adopting a platform whereon they will stand in future relations with the non-slaveholding States. The convention will no doubt propose to the non-slaveholding States terms upon which they will remain in the Union. The constitution will then, no doubt, be amended accordingly.

The Charleston papers note the arrival there of eighteen boxes of firearms for the State, from Baltimore, and two hundred boxes from New York. The papers of the same city announce that H. S. Farley, James Hamilton and Geo. N. Reynolds, of South Carolina, have "seceded" from West Point and returned home.

Hon. C. Passey, United States district attorney for the Wilkinson district, Miss., has sent his resignation to the President.

The postmaster at Halifax, N. C., has tendered his resignation to the Postmaster-General, to take effect on the 4th of March next, unless North Carolina secedes before that day.

FRANCE.—Hitherto, the home policy of Napoleon has been restrictive and despotic; now it suddenly changes and inclines to liberalism. In a recent number of the *Moniteur*, there appears a decree which restores to the French legislature some of its lost privileges. The principal provisions of this important instrument are in substance as follows:—Art. 1 authorizes the Senate and Corps Legislatif to vote an annual address in reply to the imperial speech at the opening of each session. Art. 2 ordains that the discussion on said speech shall take place in the presence of government commissioners, who shall give to the chambers the necessary explanations on the domestic and foreign policy of the empire. Art. 3 revives and modifies Art. 5 of the decree of March, '52, which concedes to the legislative body the right of expressing its opinion on *projets de loi*, and proposing amendments therein. Art. 4 announces that a *senatus consultum* will be passed at the next session, which will render lawful the appointment of reporters to report the proceedings in the respective chambers, copies of which are to be sent every evening to all the Parisian journals, and in *extenso* reports thereof published in the official paper of the following day. Art. 5 provides for the nomination, by the Emperor, of ministers without portfolio, to defend the measures of the government before the chambers, in concert with the members of the council of state. Such are the most prominent features of Napoleon's new policy; such the most valuable of the privileges which, in the day of his power, and as a free-will offering, he seeks fit to restore to the representatives of France. These concessions are so many steps in the direction of a constitutional government, and ought to be very valuable in the eyes of the French legislature and people.

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## THIRTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

[REPORTED FOR THE ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE.]

In Senate, Thursday, Dec. 20.

The report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, was received and referred to the Committee on Printing.

Mr. Hunter from the Committee on Finance reported back the bill known as the "Morrill Tariff bill," with a recommendation that it be postponed until the fourth of March next. On his motion, the bill and recommendation were tabled.

Mr. Clark, of N. H., called up his resolution of inquiry in relation to the condition of Fort Moultrie, his garrison, the instructions